

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Isle Royale National Park

Thuja occidentalis - (Myrica gale) / Eriophorum alpinum / Drepanocladus spp. Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Northern White-cedar - (Sweet Gale) / Alpine Cottongrass / Brown Moss species Shrubland
SYNONYM	White Cedar - Sweet Gale Scrub Fen
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Saturated cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.g)
ALLIANCE	PENTAPHYLLOIDES FLORIBUNDA - MYRICA GALE - (CAREX LASIOCARPA) SATURATED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

RANGE

Isle Royale National Park

This community is uncommon, and it occurs scattered through the park; the largest areas are in parts of Siskiwit Swamp (southwest end), but it also occurs in wetlands south of Lake Desor (west central) and near the Duncan Bay campground (northeast end).

Globally

This association is found in northern Michigan and Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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This community occupies large wetland depressions with peat soils that remain saturated, even during a dry summer. It occurs at elevations ranging from 600 to 900 feet. The diverse fen vegetation suggests that these wetlands are kept saturated by groundwater that is minerotrophic (with a relatively high pH and alkalinity).

Globally

This association has only been described at Isle Royale NP. The global description is the same as the local description until more examples can be examined.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Larix laricina</i> , <i>Picea mariana</i> , <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Short shrub	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> , <i>Larix laricina</i> , <i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>
Graminoid	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>

Globally

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CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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Larix laricina, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Rhamnus alnifolia*, *Betula pumila*, *Pentaphylloides floribunda*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex exilis*, *Solidago uliginosa*, *Eriogonum alpinum*

Globally

Larix laricina, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Rhamnus alnifolia*, *Betula pumila*, *Pentaphylloides floribunda*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex exilis*, *Solidago uliginosa*, *Eriogonum alpinum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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White cedar - sweet gale scrub fen is a wooded wetland with a diverse mixture of evergreen and deciduous scrub trees and shrubs. There may be a sparse cover of trees over 5 m tall (0 to 20% cover of trees); the most abundant trees are

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Larix laricina, *Thuja occidentalis*, and *Picea mariana* (each usually 1 to 5% cover). The tall shrub layer consists mainly of scrub forms (2 to 5 m tall) of the same three tree species, with overall 5 to 40% cover of tall shrubs. The short shrub layer (under 2 m tall) varies from 30 to 70% cover; the most abundant short shrubs (including dwarf shrubs) are small scrub forms of *Thuja occidentalis*, *Rhamnus alnifolia*, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, scrub forms of *Larix laricina*, *Myrica gale*, *Andromeda polifolia*, *Betula pumila*, *Pentaphylloides floribunda*, *Juniperus horizontalis*, *Ledum groenlandicum*, and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Herbaceous cover varies from 40 to 70%; the most abundant herbs are *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Equisetum fluviale*, *Eriophorum alpinum*, *Carex exilis*, *Iris versicolor*, *Solidago uliginosa*, and *Rhynchospora alba*. Moss cover varies from 10 to 70%; the most abundant mosses are *Sphagnum* spp. (average 5 to 25% cover), and *Campylium* sp.

Globally

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Information not available

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEG005193

MAP UNITS 60

COMMENTS

REFERENCES